GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
HARVESTING OF RAIN WATER
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has encouraged the State Governments and NGOs to promote rain water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has given any special package/assistance to the State Governments which are successfully implementing the rain water harvesting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.216 FOR REPLY ON 08.08.2005 REGARDING HARVESTING OF RAIN WATER

'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for promoting rain water harvesting.

The Ministry of Water Resources implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the VIII & IX Five Year Plans.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakh artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures.

Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) is implementing three area development programmes, namely, Integrated Waste Land Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Proagramme (DDP).

Under these programmes funds are allotted to States for various activities, which includes soil and water conservation works. However, funds are not exclusively allotted for checking declining ground water, which is a resultant activity of moisture conversation works undertaken for the development of watershed areas. Similarly the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDSCA).

In addition to the above, following steps have been taken by the Union Government in this regard:-

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highway Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) Demonstrative projects of roof top rain water harvesting were also implemented through Community Based Organisations/Voluntary Organisations/ Voluntary Agencies in rural Government schools in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(iv) States/Union Territories have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(v) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 2000 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(viii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(ix) Water conservation campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.